AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report

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Annual Report

1992-93

Australian Government Publishing Service Canberra The Honourable John Dawkins, MP Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia

I have pleasure in submitting the Report of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for the year ended 30 June 1993.

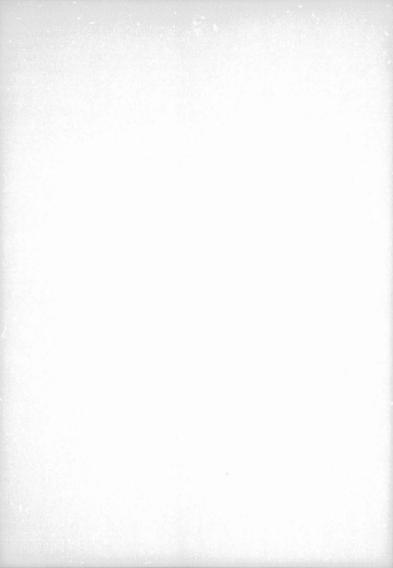
The Report outlines the work undertaken by the Council and is submitted to you for presentation to Parliament under section 24(2) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975.

N. Pakes

Chairman

12 August 1993 *

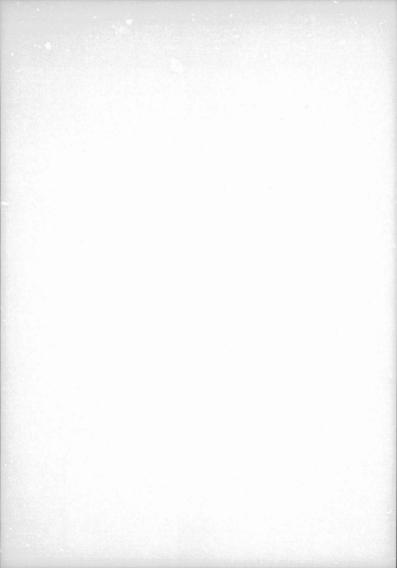
* date approved for printing



Australian Statistics Advisory Council

Mission

To ensure that, in keeping with Council's statutory charter, the advice furnished to the Minister and the Statistician in relation to the collection and dissemination of statistics has due regard to relative priorities, is objective, relevant, timely, constructive and practical, and that it is sensitive to the needs of both suppliers and users of statistical data.



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MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL	., 30 JUNE 1993	Date first appointed
Mr Norman Oakes, AO	Chairman	14.1.77
Mr Ian Castles, AO, OBE	Australian Statistician (ex officio)	
Mrs Yvonne Bain, AM	President, National Council of Women of Australia	14.1.80
Mr Grant Belchamber	Senior Research Officer, Australian Council of Trade Unions	1.3.88(a)
Dr Lisa Brodribb, AM	Managing Director, M. Brodribb Pty Ltd	14.1.77
Ms Rebekah Burton	Senior Manager, Business Information Services, Tasmanian Development Authority	1.5.91
Dr Neil Conn	Under Treasurer, The Treasury, Northern Territory	1.11.81(b)
Mr John Crosby	Senior Vice President National Farmers' Federation	1.11.92
Mr Ken Foreman, AM	Consulting Statistician	1.3.91
Mr John Fraser	Deputy Secretary (Economic) Department of the Treasury	1.6.90
Mr Ross Holt	Assistant Under Treasurer, Economic Policy and Services, Department of the Treasury, Western Australia	1.3.88
Dr Neil Johnston	Deputy Secretary, Department of Employment, Education and Training	17.3.89

Prof Peter Karmel, AC, CBE	Chairman, Board of the Institute of the Arts, Australian National University	1.7.88
Mr Steven Kates	Chief Economist, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1.9.91
Mr John Macleod	Consultant Economist	17.3.83
Dr Paul Moy	Deputy Secretary, New South Wales Treasury	16.7.90
Prof Max Neutze	Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University	4.6.86
Dr Peter Shergold	Chief Executive Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	1.12.92
Mr David Smith	Director, Statistical Services, Government Statistician's Office, Queensland	1.6.89
Prof Fiona Stanley	Director, WA Research Institute of Child Health	1.6.93
Ms Carol Treloar	Director, Intergovernment Relations, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia	1.9.91
Mr Mike Woods	Assistant Under Treasurer, Economic Branch, ACT Treasury	1.8.92
Observers		
Mr Michael Davies	Representing ABS staff through the Public Sector Union	

Deputy Australian Statistician

(a) Did not serve on Council between March and September 1991(b) Did not serve on Council between June 1983 and February 1987

Dr Richard Madden

Changes in membership since 30 June 1992

August 1992 Mr Mike Woods appointed.

Mr Michael Tooth retired at the conclusion of his term of

appointment.

November 1992 Mr John Crosby appointed.

December 1992 Mr Geoff Allen resigned.
Dr Peter Shergold appointed.

January 1993 Dr Jacqueline Morgan resigned.

May 1993 Mr David Stanton retired at the

conclusion of his term of

appointment.

June 1993 Prof Fiona Stanley appointed.
Dr Alfred Smith resigned.

Council records with appreciation the contribution made by the retiring members to the work of the Council.

Note: In this Report, after the first reference, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council is referred to as ASAC or the Council, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the ABS or the Bureau.

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Under section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* Commonwealth agencies are required to publish a statement about their organisation, functions, decision-making powers, consultative arrangements, categories of documents maintained, and facilities and procedures to enable members of the public to obtain access to documents under the Act.

The relevant statement for ASAC appears in Appendix 3 to this Report.

No requests for access to documents under the FOI Act were received by ASAC during the year.

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975.

This is the seventeenth Annual Report of the Council, and is made in accordance with section 24(2) of the Act which provides that: 'the Council shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, prepare and submit to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report relating to matters connected with the operation of this Act'.

Under section 18(1) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975 the Council is to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on:

- the improvement, extension and co-ordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;
- (b) annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and
- any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The Act enables the Minister or the Australian Statistician to seek the advice of the Council on these matters. The Council also offers advice on these matters to the Minister or the Australian Statistician when it considers it appropriate to do so.

The Act provides that the Council shall consist of a part-time Chairman, the Australian Statistician (ex officio), and between ten and twenty-two part-time members, including one nominee of each State Premier and the Chief Ministers of the two Territories. The Chairman and members are appointed by the responsible Minister - currently the Treasurer - for periods of five years and up to three years respectively, and are eligible for reappointment.

The Chairman receives an annual fee, set by the Remuneration Tribunal, and members are reimbursed their travel costs, where applicable. Expenditure during 1992-93 was \$49438 plus an estimated amount of \$32500 on direct secretariat costs incurred by the ABS in servicing Council. This support mainly involves organising and recording its meetings, administering its membership and preparing its annual report. In addition, ABS officers are involved in the preparation of many of the ASAC agenda papers.

The secretary of the Council is the Director, Secretariat, whose address is PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616 - telephone (06)252 5760.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

Council celebrated its 50th meeting in March 1993. In acknowledging this significant event, the Chairman noted that the number and complexity of issues requiring Council's consideration had steadily grown since its inception and would no doubt continue to do so. Council acknowledges the valuable assistance of the Australian Statistician and staff of the Bureau in helping it to meet its objectives.

This year the thrust of Council's work was directed to consideration of issues related to the Bureau's interaction with suppliers and users of data, and the work it is doing in developing areas of identified statistical needs. Among the issues discussed were the continuing emphasis on marketing and client servicing, the development of leading indicators, the move to publish trend estimates in main economic indicator publications, and the development of seminars for business and government agencies on time series data. Areas of statistical need to which the Bureau is turning its attention include business expectations and services sector statistics.

Council also examined its own role, focusing particularly on how it might enhance its ability to respond to the issues which it is likely to face in coming years.

Council received regular reports on the processing of data from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing, and has commenced its consideration of ABS proposals for the content and procedures of the 1996 Census.

Considerable progress has been made by the Bureau over recent years, a period of tight resources. The growing dependence on revenue from user charges and the extent of user funding are seen as inevitable developments with positive benefits, but ones which Council will be closely monitoring. Council is confident that the ABS will continue to provide a high quality and well-balanced statistical service which is responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

Forward work program 1993-94 to 1995-96

Council devoted a significant amount of time at its November 1992 and March 1993 meetings to reviewing the Bureau's forward work program for 1993-94 to 1995-96. Council was informed of the generally tight financial outlook facing the ABS over the next few years and was reminded of the

large and increasing dependence on retained revenue to fund any expansion of the forward work program. There is, however, a real risk that the recent pattern of yearly growth in retained revenue might not continue, thereby reducing the ABS's flexibility in achieving its work program.

Given the current and prospective level of resources available to the Bureau, Council endorses the review activity being undertaken by the Bureau to free resources to address emerging areas of statistical need. In particular, the reviews currently underway of the agriculture and manufacturing programs are seen as having the potential to offer significant savings. Council looks forward to examining the results of these reviews and the responses from users. The review activity will also encompass the process of input-output compilation, the results of which will be closely examined by Council. The value of the input-output tables was stressed by some members.

An important feature of the work program is the priority placed on investment in more efficient systems and more effective infrastructure to position the ABS to focus better on client needs. The review of the Business Register has been an essential pre-requisite to the Bureau's work and Council has fully supported the resources devoted to this.

For some time now, Council has been encouraging the Bureau to allocate more resources to the provision of data on the services sector. It seems clear that the services industries are a major contributor to Australia's economic growth and developments in this widely diverse sector will need to be closely monitored. The recent introduction of the annual economic surveys and of a range of services industries surveys has the full support of Council.

Council commends the ABS on its advances in bringing forward more information about unpublished data and notes the prospects for improved client access to ABS data and services following recent initiatives in data management. Council notes also the improvements made to a number of publications, which have been of considerable advantage to users. It has been suggested that the ABS consider establishing consultancy panels to advise on the content of its major theme publications, particularly those which draw on data from a range of sources.

Council strongly supports the Bureau's efforts in reducing respondent load. However, Council feels that these efforts are not well appreciated in the business community and encourages the ABS to do more to communicate to the respondent community the progress made in this area.

The report of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Technical Consultative Committee, chaired by Professor Max Neutze, was released in July 1992. Members received a copy of the report and were invited to comment on its recommendations. Council commends the ABS on its efforts to encourage greater community understanding of the CPI by releasing the information paper The Australian Consumer Price Index: 12th Series Review which described the background and objectives of the Review, the recommendations of the Technical Consultative Committee, and the outcome of the Review.

Council welcomes the progress being made by the Bureau in improving the timeliness and accuracy of data on government finance statistics, an area on which the States and Council have put a lot of emphasis.

Council is aware that statistical coordination continues to be a difficult but important function for the ABS. While State Statistical Coordination Committees exist in most States to help formulate and coordinate State government statistical priorities, no comparable forum exists at the Commonwealth level. As a consequence, while significant efforts are being directed towards the development of statistical standards and frameworks, and in the public reconciliation of ABS statistics with related information provided by other agencies, some agencies still tend to concentrate their analysis on their own data rather than take full advantage of ABS statistical frameworks and data. Council urges continued ABS efforts to investigate ways to promote statistical quality and coordination at the Commonwealth and State levels.

Council has endorsed the ABS forward work program for 1993-94 to 1995-96.

The role of Council: future directions

During the year Council took the opportunity presented by the Chairman in his paper *The Role of Council: Future Directions* to focus on how effectively it was performing its statutory functions and how it might enhance its ability to respond to the emerging issues with which it is likely to be faced over the next few years.

At its July 1992 meeting, Council developed a mission statement, identified some of the issues likely to require attention in coming years and outlined strengths and constraints which impinge on Council's ability to deal with those issues. Members felt that Council could play a greater role

in the ABS's strategic direction setting. In response to a suggestion that Council was currently not as well balanced as it should be, in that there was a preponderance of State Government representatives, it was pointed out that State representation provided a valuable non-Canberra perspective to Council deliberations and that States were very large users of statistics. It was felt that Council provided an important forum for States to influence the direction of the national statistical service.

Considerable time was devoted to a proposal to establish sub-committees to examine in depth some of the issues which regularly come before Council. Several members cautioned that committees tended to generate extra cost and paperwork, and suggested that it might be better to look at how Council's current structure and meeting arrangements could be made more effective. Most members supported some kind of sub-group activity but felt that ad hoc groups formed to examine specific issues as they arose would be more appropriate than standing committees established along functional lines.

Following further discussion at its November meeting, Council unanimously endorsed the recommendation that several ad hoc panels of Council members be formed to work with Bureau officers on the preparation of discussion papers on important contemporary issues identified by Council as requiring attention. Council welcomed the suggestion by the ABS that the Bureau's main contribution to the process should be by involving participants in its Advanced Management Program (AMP) in the work of Council. It was agreed that individual issues would be undertaken as project assignments by AMP participants with members of ASAC panels acting as mentors. In this way AMP officers would be encouraged to contribute to the ASAC work groups as independent professionals, unconstrained by the existence of 'approved ABS views'; part of their role would be to challenge 'conventional wisdom' and to develop new ideas. Such an arrangement has the potential not only to contribute useful professional expertise to the work groups, but also to enable ASAC members to enhance their contact with a wider range of ABS staff.

At its March 1993 meeting, Council decided on the first three topics and the composition of the ASAC panels which would consider them. The topics are:

- . Privacy, and policy on release of unit record data
- . Development of ABS policy on joint ventures
- Role of ABS in coordinating statistical activities of government agencies.

Business expectations surveys

As noted in its annual report for 1991-92, Council has spent some time discussing investigations by the ABS into Australian and international experience in the conduct and use of surveys on the expectations of businesses about aspects of their operations.

At its July 1992 meeting, Council discussed surveys currently undertaken by various private sector groups, and heard opposing views of the desirability of ABS involvement in surveys of this type. Council agreed that although there were a number of problems with the private sector surveys, they provided valuable information about the state of the Australian economy. However, there was a view in the community that Government should be canvassing private sector views, and Treasury and some other agencies were keen for the ABS to become involved. There was support among Council members for the ABS to develop and undertake its own expectations survey, and for it to assist with improving the methodology and quality of existing private sector surveys, although no clear preference emerged for either role.

Coincidentally, the Government announced in August 1992 that it had supplied funding for the ABS to survey the expectations of Australian businesses, to support this work and to investigate the feasibility of conducting a household survey on consumers' expectations of inflation. At its November meeting, Council was informed of the ABS's plans for the conduct and evaluation of an economy wide survey of business expectations to provide improved data for economic forecasting purposes.

Council considered the argument that the ABS should not be entering the business expectations field in competition with existing private sector surveys because to do so would amount to the ABS devoting resources to duplicating adequate existing surveys. The proponents of this argument suggested that those resources could be better invested in investigating which of its own existing surveys could be enhanced or augmented to provide forecasting data, and in assisting private sector agencies to improve their surveys. In response, the ABS advised Council that it intended to assist organisations already in the field to improve their surveys, and that considerable work was already being done to improve the forecasting capability of its current surveys. A significant feature of the ABS expectations survey which distinguished it from the existing surveys was that small businesses would form a substantial portion of its sample.

Council acknowledges that the ABS has been specifically asked by Government to undertake the expectations survey and that it has been provided with the additional funds to do so. Council supports the ABS's involvement in the field both in developing its own survey and in

providing assistance to existing private sector surveys, and welcomes the ABS's assurance that it will take account of members' concerns during that process.

Council was informed that the ABS was developing an experimental quarterly composite leading indicator (CLI) which is intended to summarise the early signals contained in individual partial economic indicators. The CLI is a single time series produced by aggregating eight individual economic indicators, and is designed to help in detecting the turning points between the successive expansions and contractions of economic activity. An experienced OECD officer on exchange with the ABS has been assisting with the work, which is based on similar work undertaken in international institutions working in the field. The work has involved examining lead/lag characteristics of a number of ABS variables, including business expectations data, which appeared to have a useful role as input to a CLI.

Enhancing the ABS's focus on its clients

Council has discussed aspects of marketing, charging and client servicing on a number of occasions over recent years. At its November 1992 meeting Council considered the broad direction the ABS was pursuing in order to identify and better service the needs of its clients. Council was informed that senior ABS officers had attended a workshop in August 1992 as a first step in a process designed to assist the ABS to develop strategies for refining its knowledge of its clients, for understanding their statistical needs, and for satisfying those needs.

The ABS has recognised that its client base comprises distinct groups which can be categorised on the basis of their statistical needs and the type of service they require rather than on the value of the products they require. While revenue generation is an outcome of satisfying clients' needs and of sales of products generally, that is not the sole determinant of the ABS's marketing strategy. Council agrees with the ABS that its activities will always have a public good content which cannot be valued solely in monetary terms.

Council supports the ABS's key client strategy which, among other things, aims to assist organisations to define their needs and to enhance communication with the ABS. Council is pleased to see the positive results emerging from the ABS's efforts to understand and effectively service its clients.

Services sector statistics

Some members of Council have been concerned for some time that the proportion of ABS resources devoted to providing statistics on the services sector has not been sufficient. They have suggested that surveying of industries in this sector should be as frequent as for other industries.

At its November 1992 meeting Council was brought up to date on the major existing collections and plans for the development of additional collections over the next three years on the structure and performance of the services sector. Members were reminded of previous discussions about the ABS's upgrading of its Business Register and the implementation of the new Australian and New Zealand Industrial Classification, both of which were reported on in Council's annual report for 1991-92. Improvements in the Register will assist the ABS to survey services industries more adequately and the new classification takes into account emerging services industries which had not been adequately covered in the earlier classification. Much of the work to improve statistics on the services sector has been financed by reductions in resources devoted to agriculture, manufacturing and mining.

Council acknowledges that the range of program reviews initiated in 1992 are not budget cutting exercises, but are intended to provide resource savings for subsequent application to emerging areas of statistical need such as improved coverage of the services sector. Council commends the ABS on the work done to date and would like to see the work accelerated should additional resources become available as a result of such reviews.

Population censuses 1991 and 1996

During the year Council continued to monitor progress on processing the 1991 Census. The Chairman visited the Data Prcessing Centre (DPC) and congratulated the staff on the exceptionally high level of efficiency which had been obtained. Council was pleased to note that the main processing task at the DPC was completed on schedule and within budget.

Revised population estimates from the 1991 Census were released on 9 June 1992. The revised figures generally showed similar discrepancies between intercensal estimates and census results between 1986 and 1991 as between 1981 and 1986 in the aggregate. The ABS acknowledged that there had been some difficulties in estimating population, especially for the smaller States and the Northern Territory. The ABS emphasised that the

accuracy of population estimates was constrained by the accuracy of the data which it was able to obtain between the census periods.

The Chairman informed Council that he had been asked to launch the release of the New South Wales figures. He had taken that opportunity to talk about the destruction of census forms and had been surprised at the reaction of the media. Council is aware that whenever this issue has been raised in the past, the Government has concluded that census forms should not be retained, a position which Council supports.

Council has been very concerned about the delay in the release of final data from the 1991 Census and has advised the ABS that the timeliness of results must be a priority for the 1996 Census. Council acknowledges that the first release of data from the 1991 Census was achieved earlier than the equivalent time for the 1986 Census. The major problem concerned some aspects of data quality which had required extensive investigation before the causes could be identified and corrective action taken. Council supported the ABS's decision to resist releasing data until it was certain that the quality was up to standard, despite considerable pressure to take short cuts to resolve the problem.

Planning for the 1996 Census is well under way. The public consultation process started in February 1993 with the release of ABS Views on Content and Procedures seeking submissions from the community on the content of the 1996 Census. At its March meeting, Council considered a paper prepared on its behalf by two members in response to the ABS Views paper. Discussion focused on the main issues addressed by the ABS: respondent load, timeliness of results, confidentiality and publicity, together with consideration of the individual topics proposed for inclusion or exclusion. In response to a member's query whether significant savings could be achieved by reducing the number of questions, Council was informed that most of the cost was due to the fact that the collection was a census. Adding or deleting a question had only a small impact on the overall cost.

Council broadly supports the ABS's position as presented in ABS Views, in particular that the census be about the same size as in 1991 and that greater emphasis be put on production of timely and accurate data. Council looks forward to the results of the ABS's community consultation and to a continuing involvement in the development of plans for the 1996 Census.

Time series - monitoring trends

At its March 1993 meeting, Council's attention was drawn to the increasing emphasis on trend series rather than seasonally adjusted or original data in most of the ABS's time series publications.

The smoothing techniques used to produce ABS trend estimates allow those estimates to be published with a high degree of confidence in their statistical usefulness. Research by the ABS has shown that many period-to-period movements of seasonally adjusted series are due to residual/irregular factors. In addition, a number of inappropriate techniques commonly used by some organisations to transform seasonally adjusted data into indicators of trend have given misleading indications of trend behaviour. The essential feature of the ABS's trend estimates is that they represent the underlying direction of the series, excluding seasonal effects and residual/irregular factors.

In response to a concern that the ABS was narrowing users' options by emphasising the trend as against the seasonally adjusted figures, the ABS has stressed that the intention is to highlight the fact that seasonally adjusted series can be misleading, particularly when large irregular factors are involved, and to assist users to become familiar with using the trend series. However, the ABS has confirmed that seasonally adjusted and original data will continue to be published.

Council supports the ABS's shift of focus to trend estimates and commends the ABS on its successful program of seminars on time series and trend estimates.

Quality assurance in ABS business surveys

An issue on which Council places a good deal of importance is data quality. At its July 1992 meeting Council considered a paper highlighting the substantial but often invisible component of the ABS's work which underpins its reputation for quality output. Discussion focused on the work being done throughout the Bureau to improve the quality of business statistics, in particular on those aspects which would result in continuing quality enhancement such as improving feedback mechanisms to the ABS from users, and establishing measures for ongoing monitoring of the performance of ABS systems. A number of factors influencing quality were discussed, including the impact of the practice of rotating units into

and out of survey populations, and respondents' confidence in the security of data.

Council has often emphasised the need for close consultation between the ABS and its respondents and users. It is therefore pleased to see the efforts being made by the Bureau to actively seek and act on feedback from its users about their needs and to involve respondents in the development of collections.

Council was informed that a thorough evaluation of the National Project Centres (NPC) trial had judged them to be a successful development for the ABS. NPCs are expected to provide the opportunity to enhance feedback and communication by establishing single centres responsible for overall design and operation of the projects concerned.

Study papers by Council members

Professors Karmel and Neutze prepared a paper for Council's consideration entitled *Involvement of the Academic Community in ABS Activities*. The paper was prompted by discussion at a previous meeting about the comparative lack of use by academics of the ABS's data bases, during which some suggestions were made about how the academic community could be encouraged to become more involved in the ABS's work. The paper canvassed options for increasing the effectiveness of the existing ABS Research Fellowship Scheme.

Council feels that it is important that the ABS recognise that people are attracted to ABS data rather than to the prospect of working on methodological problems, and that the ABS therefore needs to be more flexible in applying the Scheme so that it is not restricted only to projects of direct benefit to the ABS. Council has suggested that there is a need to broaden the existing objectives of the Scheme to emphasise evaluation of the usefulness of ABS data bases. Council believes that this will return something of value to the ABS in return for its sponsorship of the Fellowships. The ABS has agreed with this approach but has pointed out that, for the Scheme to be worthwhile, it is essential that benefits accrue to it as well as to the researcher.

Mr Stephen de Rozairo presented a paper on *The ACTU's Use of ABS Products* which described the functions of the ACTU, with particular emphasis on its increasing involvement in policy formulation and consequent requirement for timely access to ABS data. It also provided an

overview of the ACTU's holdings of ABS data and gave examples of how the ACTU used those data.

The ABS indicated that PC AUSSTATS was likely to be the best solution to meet the ACTU's need for timely and reliable statistical information accessible via personal computer. However, other methods available to clients for accessing data quickly included the use of broadcast facsimile facilities and physical collection of publications from ABS offices.

General

At its March 1993 meeting, Council welcomed an address by Mr Bill McLennan, AM, former Deputy Australian Statistician, and now Head of the Government Statistical Service in the United Kingdom. Mr McLennan's address was wide-ranging, covering his charter, the differences and similarities between the Australian and British civil services (with particular reference to their respective statistical service, and a perspective on the future of the European Economic Community with particular reference to the role of Eurostat and national statistical agencies.

Council wishes to record its appreciation for the assistance received from the Statistician and his officers in the presentation and comprehensiveness of information provided on the matters considered by Council and the courtesy and efficiency with which secretariat and other services have been made available. Council has found the report of major issues affecting the Bureau provided by the Statistician at each meeting to be of special value.

APPENDIX 1

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL 1992-93

15 July 1992 18-19 November 1992 24 March 1993

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS Meetings attended Mr Norman Oakes, AO 3 Chairman Mr Ian Castles, AO, OBE 3 Australian Statistician State/Territory representatives New South Wales Dr Paul Moy 2 Mr John Diller (a) 1 Victoria Dr Alfred Smith Mr Pat Webb (a) 3 Mr David Smith Oueensland Western Australia Mr Ross Holt 2 Ms Anne Nolan (a) Ms Carol Treloar South Australia Tasmania Ms Rebekah Burton 3 Northern Territory Dr Neil Conn Mr Gary Henry (a) 1 Mr Don Parker (a) 3 Australian Capital Mr Mike Woods (b) Territory

Members from Commonwealth departments/authorities

Department of the Treasury	Mr John Fraser	1
	Mr John Larum 3(a) Mr Gary Potts 3(a) Mr Bruce Hearn 3(a)	2
Department of Employment Education and Training	Dr Neil Johnston Ms Maureen McLachlan (a) Mr Tom Karmel (a)	1 2
Department of Social Security	Mr David Stanton (b) Ms Carmen Zanetti (a)	2 1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	Dr Peter Shergold (b)	1
Other members		
current	Mrs Yvonne Bain, AM Mr Grant Belchamber Mr Stephen de Rozairo (a) Dr Lisa Brodribb, AM Mr John Crosby (b) Mr Ken Foreman, AM Prof Peter Karmel, AC, CBE Mr Steven Kates Mr John Macleod Prof Max Neutze Prof Fiona Stanley (b)	3 2 3 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
retired during year	Mr Geoff Allen Dr Jacqueline Morgan Mr Michael Tooth, AM (a)	2

⁽a) proxy(b) member for part year only - see page x for details on changes in membership since 30 June 1992.

APPENDIX 2

MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN ABS ACTIVITIES

Members serving on ABS committees concerned with statistical review activity Mr John Crosby Agriculture Program Review Steering Group

Dr Lisa Brodribb, AM Manufacturing Census Review Steering Group

Mr David Smith Input-Output Review Steering Committee

Members serving on panels to work with ABS officers on preparation of papers on contemporary issues Prof Peter Karmel, AC, CBE Mr Mike Woods Mr David Smith

Dr Lisa Brodribb, AM Mr John Macleod Mr Steven Kates

Ms Carol Treloar Mr Ross Holt Mr David Stanton

APPENDIX 3

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Below is a statement, as required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, about the structure of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council and how members of the public can obtain access to information held by the Council.

Establishment, organisation and functions

See Introduction to this Report (page 1).

Powers

As an advisory body, ASAC has no decision-making or other powers directly affecting members of the public. It does not administer any enactments or schemes.

Arrangements for outside participation

ASAC members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS so that a broad range of views and interests is reflected in the advice that ASAC offers to the Minister and the Statistician. Membership details are given on pages viii-x.

Persons or bodies outside the Commonwealth administration may participate in the Council's policy formulation by making representations to the Minister or the Chairman on matters of concern to them.

Categories of documents

The ASAC annual report, which is tabled in Parliament, is available from all ABS offices. Files are maintained which contain documents relating to the administration of the Council, papers discussed at Council meetings, summary records of proceedings of meetings and correspondence relating to the activities of the Council.

FOI procedures and initial contact points

All inquiries concerning access to documents, including inquiries under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, may be directed on weekdays, between 8.30am and 4.30pm, to the Secretary, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, c/- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cameron Offices, Belconnen, ACT 2617 - telephone (06) 2525760.

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